

wherein R¹ and R² each represent H, or together represent a second carbon-carbon bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached;

when R¹ and R² each represent H, then R³ and R⁴ also represent H;

when R¹ and R² together represent a second carbon-carbon bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached, then R³ and R⁴ independently represent H or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

Ar represents:

phenyl or naphthyl, which groups are optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl [which may itself be substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, CO₂H, NH₂, NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl) and N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂] halo, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, CO₂H, C₁₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl, NO₂, CN, NH₂, NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl), N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)₂, OH and C₁₋₃ alkylenedioxy, or

a 5-or 6-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, which group is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl [which may itself be substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, CO₂H, NH₂, NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl) and N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂], halo, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, CO₂H, C₁₋₆ alkoxy carbonyl, NO₂, CN, NH₂, NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl), and N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)₂.

2. (amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the companion animal is a cat, a dog or a horse.

3. (amended). A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the endothelin mediated disorder is hypertension, congestive heart failure or chronic renal failure.

4. (amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² each represent H.

5. (amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein R³ and R⁴ each represent H.

6. (amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein Ar represents phenyl, naphthyl, or thienyl, which groups are optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆

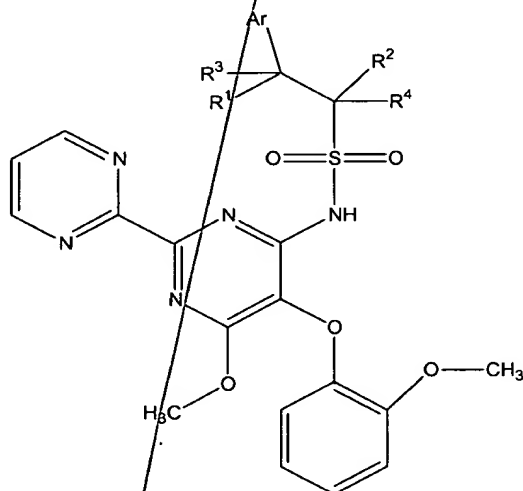
alkyl, halo, CF₃, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, CO₂H and C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl.

7. (amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein Ar is phenyl.

8. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the endothelin mediated disorder is congestive heart failure.

9. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the endothelin mediated disorder is chronic renal failure.

10. (amended) A formulation containing a compound of formula I or a veterinarily acceptable salt thereof:



wherein R¹ and R² each represent H, or together represent a second carbon-carbon bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached;

when R¹ and R² each represent H, then R³ and R⁴ also represent H;

when R¹ and R² together represent a second carbon-carbon bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached, then R³ and R⁴ independently represent H or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

Ar represents:

phenyl or naphthyl, which groups are optionally substituted by one or more groups

selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl [which may itself be substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, CO₂H, NH₂, NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl) and N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂] halo, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, CO₂H, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, NO₂, CN, NH₂, NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl), N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)₂, OH and C₁₋₃ alkylenedioxy, or

a 5-or 6-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, which group is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl [which may itself be substituted by one or more substituents selected from halo, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, CO₂H, NH₂, NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl) and N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂], halo, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, CO₂H, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, NO₂, CN, NH₂, NH(C₁₋₆ alkyl), and N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)₂;

the formulation characterized in that it is adapted for administration to a companion animal.

11. (amended) A formulation according to claim 10, which is adapted for oral administration and has a taste attractive to the companion animal.

In the Drawings

NE Please insert Figure 1, attached to this response.

Remarks

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 12-14 have been cancelled. The specification is objected to as containing an illustration which does not come within the purview of 37 CFR 1.58(a). The chart on page 15 of the specification has been deleted, and the chart has been submitted as Figure 1. No new matter has been added. The specification has further been amended to include a section entitled "Brief Description of the Drawings."

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 USC § 101 as being drawn to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 10-14 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claims, and claims 10-14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada et al. EP 0882719 and Harada et al WO 98/57938.

Reconsideration is requested in view of the remarks below.